

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication has an important role in human life. It helps people to understand each other and to fulfill their need. In order to have a good communication, they use a device to express their ideas or feelings. This device is called language. Language allows people to say things to each other and express communication needs (Wardough, 1986).

People use language for many purposes such as providing information, giving commands, expressing feelings, social talking, world play, and poetry (Aitchison, 1996). Through language people can maintain their daily activities. People also use language to reveal their personal identities. As stated by Holmes (1992) that the way you speak is usually a good indicator of your social background. In brief, humans use language to communicate and to show their social identity in the society.

When people communicate each other, they may have different opinions from others. Sometimes, it causes dislike, dissatisfaction, or anger between the speaker and the hearer. In this condition, they tend to speak swear words. They usually swear or curse to strengthen those feelings. They argue against the use of swearing words on the grounds that they are cursing, insulting, offensive, blasphemous, obscene, rude, or just unnecessary.

Andersson and Trudgill (1990) stated that swearing could be defined as a type of language use in which the expression (a) refers of something that is taboo and/or stigmatized in the culture; (b) should not be interpreted literally; (c) can be used to express strong emotions and attitudes. In line with this, Karjalainen (2002) states that swearing is a form of linguistic expression which is often referred to bad language because all swearwords are taboo, although not all taboo words are swearwords. In fact, many people always associate swearwords with something bad. That is why, they prefer not use them in a conversation. However, there are some other people who still employ them in their conversation, especially to express their feeling.

Some people find swearing to be rude and disrespectful, while others

find it quite useful in their everyday vocabulary. There are differences in occupation as a function of gender and status, men are always expected to swear more than women in equivalent occupations and higher status personnel (e. g., dean) are expected to swear less than lower status and there are also myths that grow in society that only the undereducated speakers swear (Jay, 2009).

Swearing words have evolved thousands years ago to represent human expressions. Before the nineteenth century, swearing words were not popular because those words were strictly forbidden, mainly by religion. The religion emphasizes that the Lord's name should not be taken in vain so references to God in oaths were taboo. The reference to sexuality and bodily function is also taboo.

Nowadays, people cannot deny that swearing is a part of social life. As stated by Mohr (2013) about 0.7% of the words a person uses in the course of a day are swear words. In other words, the average person uses foul language at the same rate at which they use first-person plural pronouns (we, our, ourselves). The typical range goes from zero to about 3%. The use of swearing words becomes more popular as can be seen in daily life as well as in media such as television, radio and film. In the film, some script writers and directors of movie still do not avoid using swearing in the dialogues because movie is a representation of a real life.

Blood Father is one of the movies that represent the real life of the society, especially gangster and criminal life in America. It tells about John John who was a prisoner and running for rehabilitation process because of drug addiction and law breaking. His marriage divorced and he lost contact with his wife and his daughter. One day, his daughter, Lydia, called and came to his place then stayed for a while. Everything looked normal until three men came in a night and try to kill them. Lately, John knew that Lydia has shot his boyfriend who was a gangster. By that time, John fought and protected his daughter like he used to do before he was jailed.

In this movie, there are more than 200 swearing words which are uttered by the characters. It is a big numbers of swearing that occur in a movie. They must be various in types and in the use. It is interesting to know

what type of swearing mostly used by them and why they use it. Through this movie people can see that swearing words can be used for any reasons depending on the situational contexts. This can be seen in the following dialogue, for example:

Joker : I said 45s. Mine don't even take these cheap-ass nines
 Jonah : I thought you had 9mm.
 Joker : I can't even smoke nobody! I'm **fucking** useless now,
 man. Your **bitch** (Lydia) **fucked me**, Jonah!

The conversation above takes place in a car on the way to someplace. Jonah's friend was disappointed because his girlfriend, Lydia, bought the wrong bullets and he was so angry to her. The word "fucking" means that he was really useless because he couldn't use the right bullets. It is emphasizing his weakness without the 4,5mm bullets. The word "bitch" is said to humiliate Lydia because of her stupidity buying wrong bullets and the word "fucked me" shows his anger because Lydia's mistake affects him. Another example can be seen below:

Kirby : Seems everybody's full of **shit** today, but you.
 John : Well, maybe I just hate birthdays, all right? Makes you think there's some kind of reward for all this **shit**.

It takes place on a street which on the way to van. They talk about John's birthday which is celebrated just a moment ago. The first 'shit' here means happiness. Kirby thinks that John didn't enjoy the party like others. He can tell it from John's expression. Then the second 'shit' means the party. John calls the boring party as shit. They don't angry at all. They talk it in a friendly way.

The use of swearwords in this movie can be seen from the situation when the characters express anger, afraid, frustration, surprise, shock, insult, friendship and amusement. Jay (2000) proposes the Neuro-Psycho-Social (NPS) Theory to analyze why people curse and why they choose the certain

words to curse. It explores three aspects of human behavior i.e. neurological control, psychological restraints, and socio-cultural restrictions. An act of cursing cannot be understood without considering simultaneously those three aspects above.

Jay adds (2000) that to understand a curse word, we have to integrate the historical, social, and psychological system. The historical-social information about the word use is formed by the socio-cultural system. The linguistic and semantic analysis of a curse word use is formed by the psychological system. In the psychological system, a speaker acquires linguistic competence and performance as the result of psychological development within a socio-cultural language context. Different cultures and different languages present different linguistic and semantic constructing the dirty words use. Psychological development includes variables that directly affect cursing, such as temperament, personality, religiosity, and social rewards and punishments. Underlying the psychological development is the developing brain. The developing brain is a neurological system of control processes. It plays central role in regulating a speaker's verbal expressions at different levels of awareness and controllability.

It can be said that the uses of swearing words have various functions. The ways of swearing words expressed and the situational background of the dialogues determine the reason of swearing words employed by the characters. The act of swearing in *Blood Father* Movie is done by most of the characters in every dialogue.

There are some researches that have been done dealing with the use of swearing words in a movie e.g. Windardeni (2010), Setiawan (2010), Mawati (2012), and Prihartanti (2012). Windardeni and Mawati analyzed the use of swearing words in a movie based on sociolinguistic approach. They explore the type of swearing words used by the character and the reason they employed those words from sociolinguistic views. In the other hand, Setiawan and Prihartanti analyzed the translation of the swearing words from translation analysis of English into Indonesian. They explore the subtitle of the movie then analyzed it. Continued what they have been done before, this research tries to fill the gap on their research. It analyzed all the swearing

words, not the translation, used by the characters and the reason why they employed those words not only from sociolinguistics approach but also from neurological and psychological approach based on Jay's NPS Theory. From the examples and explanation above, Thus, the thesis entitled **An Analysis of Swearing Words Used by Characters in Blood Father Movie** is proposed.

B. Problem Statements

Based on the research background, the problem statements are arranged as follows:

1. What are the types of swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie?
2. What are the factors contributing the swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

The research is conducted to find out the answers of the problem statements. The research objectives are as follow:

1. To analyze the types of swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie.
2. To analyze the factors contributing the swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie.

D. Benefits of the Study

The researcher hopes that the result of the study will give significance and contributions in linguistic research both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical benefits

1. Provide information for further research regarding with type swearing words used by characters in a movie.
2. Provide information for further research regarding with the factors contributing the swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie.

2. Practical benefits

1. Provide information on what types of swearing words used by

characters in a movie.

2. Provide information on what the factors contributing the swearing words used by characters in Blood Father movie.

E. Research Paper Organization

The paper has been divided into seven parts that is organized based on the following sequence:

Chapter I is Introduction. It covers background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study and research paper organization.

Chapter II is literary review. It deals with underlying theory which consists of the definition of pragmatic, the definition of swearing words, the type of swearing words, and the definition and classification of NPS Theory.

Chapter III is research method. It consists of type of the research, object of the research, data and data source, method of collecting data, data validity and method of analyzing data.

Chapter IV deals with research finding and discussion. In this chapter the writer presents swearing utterances which found in Blood Father movie and describe the swearing patterns which used in the movie.

Chapter V is the last chapter which consists of conclusion and suggestion.